



Mayor's Office, City of Houston

Office of International Affairs & Development

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## Message from the Mayor

May is always an exciting time in Houston, when we come together to celebrate the many facets of the city's international life. One of the premier conventions that we are honored to host every May is the Offshore Technology Conference (OTC), which this year will draw over 50,000 energy-sector professionals and over 2,000 exhibiting companies to Houston over the course of four days. The OTC over the years has paralleled the growth of Houston's stature as the "Energy Capital of the World," and is today one of the foremost events in the oil and gas industry.

I, on behalf of Houstonians, extend a very warm welcome to our OTC visitors, and I invite you to read more on the many other international events in this month's issue.



Bill White

**Bill White, Mayor**

## Message from the Director

Each month, we receive numerous messages of encouragement and support from the community:

*"Congratulations to Mayor White and your staff on publishing such a comprehensive newsletter. This newsletter highlights and reflects the vibrant international business climate this city has. Thanks for your hard work!"*



Helen T. Chang

*Roland Rodriguez, Managing Principal  
Mir, Fox & Rodriguez P.C.*

We will continue to serve you with great pride. Thank you.

**Helen T. Chang, Director**

## April 2006 Highlights

### An Award Gala Benefits the Arab American Medical Association

On April 8, the Arab American Medical Association hosted an award gala benefiting its Houston chapter's scholarship fund. The dinner honored two world renowned scientists, Dr. Huda Zogbi, professor of

pediatrics and neurogenetics at Baylor College of Medicine, and Sir Magdi Yacoub, professor of cardiovascular surgery at the Harsfield, England.



*Dr. and Mrs. George Nassur*

#### Did You Know?

The National Arab American Medical Association was founded in 1975 in California, and has since expanded to over 29 national chapters, including one in Houston. The scholarship provided by the Houston chapter of the Arab American Medical Association offers up to \$2,500 to medical students and is one of the Association's most well funded prizes.

*Source: [http://www.naama.com/about\\_naama.htm](http://www.naama.com/about_naama.htm)*

Chaired by Dr. and Mrs. George Nassur, the event included representatives of consuls from Arab countries and leading physicians such as Dr. Michael Mawad, chief of radiology at Baylor College of Medicine, and Dr. Raymond Sawaya, chairman of neurosurgery at M.D. Anderson Cancer Center. – **By MaryJane Wakefield**

### Project Sonora Announced

Governor José Eduardo Robinson Bours Castelo of the State of Sonora, Mexico, introduced a luncheon audience of business and community leaders to his pro-business state on April 19. Noting his administration's primary goal of "improving the lives of his people through job growth," Governor Bours Castelo commented that "Mexico's past governments had continually created more social programs which resulted in more poverty."



*Governor José Eduardo Robinson Bours Castelo of the State of Sonora*

#### Did You Know?

Sonora, bordering California and Arizona, hosts 750 miles of coastline along the Sea of Cortez linking the Pacific Rim and Latin America's emerging markets through the deep water seaport of Guaymas.

*Project Sonora* was announced as the next phase in the state's focus on the progressive attraction of international investment and development. The initiative encompasses the completion of a 300-mile-long coastal highway bordering the Southwestern United States, a planned major software park in Ciudad Obregon and a business entity legally supported by J.P. Morgan which acts as a liaison between the private sector and the government to expedite investment. – **By MaryJane Wakefield**

## WorldFest Brings International Arts Patrons, Filmmakers and Artists to Houston

*WorldFest – Houston International Film Festival* kicked off its opening night on April 21 at the AMC Studio 30 Dunvale Theatres. Joining the international celebration was *Paradise, TX* Director Lorraine Senna and actor Timothy Bottoms.

### Did You Know?

2006 marks *WorldFest's* 39<sup>th</sup> year. As one of the oldest film festivals in the world, WorldFest was founded in August 1961 as an International Film Society and evolved into a competitive International Film Festival in 1968. It became the 3<sup>rd</sup> competitive international film festival in North America, following the festivals in San Francisco and New York.

Following the opening evening were film selections from Mexico, Greece, France, Israel, Croatia, Russia, and

India, which were screened all week at the theaters. WorldFest continues to offer a delectable menu of film-fare from around the world for Houston. – **By Alex Tang**



*Introducing excellence in cinematic arts for the promotion of cultural tourism, WorldFest adds to the rich cultural fabric of Houston.*

## An Evening to Say 'Benvenuto' to the New Italian Consul General

### Did You Know?

In 1976 the Federation of Italian-American Organizations of Greater Houston was formed as an umbrella organization, which coordinated the activities of more than 20 Italian Clubs in the greater Houston area. In 1988, with the proceeds from its earliest fund-raising efforts, the Federation purchased the historic Milford House in the Houston Museum District (for its headquarter). The House became known as the Italian Cultural and Community Center.

On April 19, the Italian Cultural and Community Center (ICCC) hosted a reception to welcome the new Consul General of Italy to Houston, the Honorable Cristiano Maggipinto.

Consul General Maggipinto's opening remarks emphasized the need for the ICCC to house activities for Italian citizens, Italian-Americans and Americans who simply love all things Italian. Consul General Maggipinto noted that the ICCC is an educational resource for those studying Italian through its language classes and private library. – **By Keith O. Sanders**



*(from left to right) Dominic and Mrs. Elizabeth Cuccurre, Consul General Cristiano Maggipinto, Lena and Joe Mandola*



## National African American Business Alliance Grand Opening

The National African American Business Alliance (NAABA) held its grand opening on April 26. Among the attending guests were Congressman Al Green, State Rep. Sylvester Turner and representatives from both private and public sectors.

State Rep. Turner expressed the need for a business group such as the NAABA, and the importance of the private and public sectors working together to combat the social and economic challenges of our society.

### Did You Know?

The NAABA's mission is to be a resource for local businesses wishing to secure contracting opportunities at the federal, state, and local levels.

State Rep. Turner stated the value of a working relationship between the Greater Houston Partnership and NAABA. – **By Keith O. Sanders**

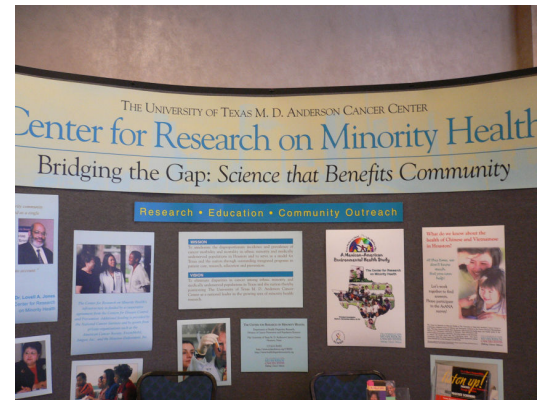


*Congressman Al Green (left) and CEO Kevin Simms of the National African American Business Alliance (right)*

Greater Houston Partnership and NAABA. – **By Keith O. Sanders**

## International Recipients for Cancer Awareness

M.D. Anderson Cancer Center's Center for Research on Minority Health hosted a mini health and information fair on April 27 in recognition of National Cancer Awareness Week and the American Cancer Society's Cancer Awareness Month. During the event, outstanding achievements of individuals and organizations that provide cancer awareness to the international community were recognized. Each nominee expressed resilience and dedication to their work, inspiring many people to continue in the fight against cancer.



*"Bridging the Gap, Science Benefits Community" is this year's theme.*

### Did You Know?

On April 8, 1987, the U.S. House of Representatives Joint Resolution 119 designated the third week in April as National Minority Cancer Awareness Week.

*Source: [www.mdanderson.org](http://www.mdanderson.org)*

Keynote speaker Stephen Williams, director of the City of Houston's Department of Health and Human Services, stressed the issue of cancer having a disproportionate impact on minorities and the economically disadvantaged. As a result, it is through partnerships, program participation, and outreach of individuals and organizations to bring awareness to the community. This year's National Minority Cancer Awareness Week recipients were Tuong-Vi Ho, tireless volunteer cancer educator working with the Vietnamese community; Karen Tso, program coordinator of the Asian American Health Coalition's Phoenix Project; HOPE Through Grace, Inc., and the Indian Doctors' Association. – **By Tiffany Ching**

## Upcoming Major Event Spotlights

### Offshore Technology Conference

“New Depths, New Horizons” is the concept of this year’s Offshore Technology Conference (OTC). With more than 50,000 professionals and over 2,000 exhibiting companies, OTC brings together the best and brightest E&P professionals and the latest offshore technology. Over 300 stimulating technical sessions and seminars on topical issues and solutions will be featured. OTC 2006 promises to be the premier event for the offshore oil and gas industry. OTC 2006 will be held from May 1 to 4 at the Reliant Center. For more information, visit [www.otcnet.org](http://www.otcnet.org).

Commercial Counselor Nancy Charles-Parker of the Embassy of the U.S. in Saudi Arabia will be leading a delegation of more than 40 Saudi Arabian oil, gas, and petrochemical company representatives to Houston on May 1-4. Participating Saudi companies are looking to purchasing a wide range of equipment, parts and ancillary services related to the oil and gas industry, pollution control, safety and security, power generation, and water desalination. Join the U.S.-Saudi Arabian Business Council in welcoming the delegation on May 3 at the Westin Galleria Hotel. For more information, contact 202-393-0027.

### Saudi Arabian Delegation to Buy Oil and Gas Equipments and Services in Houston

### Pratham Gala 2006 Celebrates Indian Culture

Meaning “first,” “primary” and “beginning,” Pratham (Sanskrit) is a community-based organization that promotes education of slum dwelling children in India. The Pratham Gala 2006 will be hosted on May 6

at the Westin Galleria Hotel and will feature Indian renowned fashion designer, Satya Paul. The evening will celebrate Indian culture with cocktails and dance. For more information, contact 713-774-9599.

One of the largest African American tradeshow in the country, the 2006 Houston Black Expo continues to present the best that the African American culture has to offer. Drawing not only thousands of attendees, but also major business leaders from around the country who come to experience the richness of the African American culture, entertainment, demonstrations, and food. The Expo will be held on May 20-21 at the George R. Brown Convention Center. For more information, contact 832-200-0540.

### 2006 Houston Black Expo

### America and Spain: Partners in Security, Development, and Diplomacy

Spain plays a unique role in the global community, acting as a bridge between Europe and North Africa. Spain is also an important strategic partner of the United States and has increased collaboration with the United States, leveraging strong diplomatic ties to work effectively on the common issues of economic development and regional security. On May 22, the Houston World Affairs Council will host a luncheon featuring Eduardo Aguirre, Jr., ambassador of the

United States to Spain and Andorra, at the Westin Oaks Hotel. For more information, contact 713-522-7811.

The 15<sup>th</sup> Annual International Air Cargo Conference is the gateway for improved foreign trade and economic development targeting the shipping industry. Companies from all over the world will be attending the event featuring conferences and workshops. The George R. Brown Convention Center will host the IACC on May 23-May 25. For more information, visit [www.iacc-expo.com](http://www.iacc-expo.com).

### 15<sup>th</sup> Annual International Air Cargo Conference

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## International Houston: Opportunities and Resources

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*This issue, "International Houston: Opportunities and Resources" will continue to provide information on a wide variety of global opportunities as well as international community resources.*

### Program Assistant Position

Deadline: Open until filled

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VN TeamWork is looking for a dependable and enthusiastic undergraduate student to fill their new summer internship position. The Program Assistant will assist with program development and activities, which will include planning and participating in fundraising events, grant writing, and providing office support. For more information, contact 281-495-8938.

## Mayor's International Affairs & Development Council (MIADC)

*Beginning this issue, the International Newsletter will present an in-depth profile of the elected leadership and the latest developments of each of the MIADC regions, beginning with the newly elected MIADC Executive Board and its regional council – MIADC/Africa.*

### MIADC Official Kick-Off Reception Hosted by Mayor Bill White

**Date/ Time:** May 12, 2006 at 6:00pm

**Venue:** City Hall Rotunda

### MIADC Executive Board

On April 14, the Mayor's International Affairs & Development Council (MIADC) elected its chair and vice chair for the Executive Board, which will govern all seven regional councils. The Executive Board is comprised of the chairpersons for all seven MIADC regions who will work to coordinate the activities of the various regions and promote a united face for our international community. Alejandro C. Giannotti, president of Bovay Engineers and chair of the MIADC/ Americas, was elected to chair the MIADC Executive Board; and Pauline V. Rosenau, professor at the School of Public Health of the University of Texas's Health Science Center and chair of MIADC/ Canada, was elected as vice-chair.



## MIADC – Africa

The following individuals are the elected officials from the MIADC/ Africa, a vibrant and diverse region that includes 23 members representing a broad spectrum of the African community and business organizations in Houston.



*Chair Lennard  
Tenende*

Lennard Tenende, the senior information technology manager at Kellogg, Brown & Root, was elected as regional chair of MIADC/Africa. An engineer by training and an accomplished leader in the field of information technology, Tenende holds a doctorate in civil engineering from the University of Texas. He believes that “Houston is a high-tech city with the power to engage Africa in terms of technology which will be a catalyst for change there.”

The MIADC/Africa is already narrowing its focus on areas in which it can make a large impact on the city life of Houston and the African community which reside here. As Tenende says, “We are a very diverse group in terms of our business and professional engagements. Two of our goals are to raise awareness of the African small business community within Houston by exposing them to the larger international market and to promote opportunities for developments in Africa for Houston-based companies.”



*Chair-elect  
Chris Wilmot*

Chris Wilmot, president and CEO of WCW International, Inc., was elected as regional chair-elect of MIADC/Africa. A leader in the business community of Houston, Wilmot has long been active in promoting the interests of the African community. He was the chairman of the board of the Greater Houston Convention & Visitor Bureau in 2004-2005. Currently, Wilmot serves as a member of the board of directors for the Greater Houston Partnership.



*Secretary  
Mosis Willett*

On the same day, Mosis Willett was confirmed as regional secretary of the MIADC/Africa. Like the Chair and Chair-elect, Willett has held a variety of important roles within the African community of Houston. In the past, Willett served as president of Ewe Association, a Ghanaian ethnic group association of Houston; and he is now members of the African Coalition Political Action Committee and the National Forum of Black Public Administrators. Currently, Willett serves as benefits analyst for the City of Houston.

### MIADC – Africa Council Members

Dr. Simeon Agbolabori	Mr. Eghosa Edebor	Mr. Tola Oresusi
Dr. Philip Aitsebaomo	Mr. John Etta	Mr. Anthony Tangwa
Dr. Steve Ams	Ms. Aster Eyob	Mr. Theodore Taylor
Dr. Muvi Arowosafe	Mr. Hamet Gassama	Mr. Clement Ukpe
Mr. Kenneth Bolton, Sr.	Mr. Mohamed Gire	Mr. Peter Wanguri
Mr. Mickey Brownell	Dr. Kase Lawal	Ms. Lindi Yeni
Ms. Nomsa Cele	Mr. Gregory Ndlovu	



## Sister City Spotlight – Nice



*This month the International Newsletter will continue to showcase each one of Houston's 16 sister cities around the globe with a closer look at each distinctive locale. This month we feature Nice, France, a large French Riviera town.*

The ancient city of Nice lies nestled between the Mercantour Mountains and the Bay of Angels. Located directly on the Mediterranean Sea, the city is surrounded by the spectacular scenery typical of the Côte d'Azur region. Nice is the capital of the Riviera province and with a population of more than 915,000 is the fifth-largest city in France. In addition to picturesque landscapes, Nice enjoys a particularly mild climate and the city's residents often boast that there are more than 300 days of sunshine a year.

Nice was originally built in the fifth century BC as a trading post for the Greek. The name Nice comes from the town's Greek name, *Nikaia*, meaning victory. By the nineteenth century, Nice had been turned over to the French and soon gained prominence as a glamorous tourist resort. It became a favorite vacation spot for a number of prominent artists and writers, including Vincent van Gogh, Henri Matisse, Ernest Hemingway and F. Scott Fitzgerald.



*Nice, France*

Although no longer the busiest city in the region, Nice still boasts a vibrant urban life. In the month of February, Nice hosts the world-famous Carnival and quickly becomes overrun with giant floats, grosses têtes or large papier-mâché figures and lively outdoor parties.

Houston's business ties to France are strong. There are 35 Houston companies with subsidiaries in France, and 53 French-owned companies in Houston. In 2004, the seaborne trade was valued at more than \$1.3 billion. As Houston's third-largest trading partner in Western Europe, air cargo trade between France and Houston was valued at almost \$744 million in 2005.

### Did You Know?

Nice's airport, Côte d'Azur International Airport, is the second most important airport in France after the Aéroports de Paris. It is run by the Chamber of Commerce and the Nice Côte d'Azur industry.

Source: <http://en.wikipedia.org>

The Houston-Nice Sister City Association hosts cultural events throughout the year. For more information on the association and their activities, please contact the Houston International Protocol Alliance at 713-227-3395.

– By **Alma D. Maldonado**

### Special Thanks

Article submitted by Alma D. Maldonado, Houston International Protocol Alliance.

## Meet the Consular Corps in Houston

# Senegal *République du Sénégal*

*This month we go south of the Senegal River in western Africa to speak with the Honorable Fatou Sall, Senegalese Consul General in Houston, to discuss everything from education partnership to energy development.*



*Consul General  
Fatou Sall*

Located on the western promontory of the African coast, the nation of Senegal has a great deal more invested in a strong Houston-Senegal relationship than initially meets the eye, and shares a great degree more in common with our city than one would think.

Senegal's first Consul General in Houston, the Honorable Fatou Sall, is a living example of the profound ways in which our two countries are connected. Consul General Sall, before accepting a position within the foreign service, had traveled to 42 states within the U.S. and traveled extensively throughout the world. A Senegalese native, educated in France and fluent in no less than five languages (Wolof, French, English, Spanish and Italian), she has a respect and intuitive feel for matters of international development and cooperation. She engaged in several internationally relevant activities prior to her appointment as Consul General, including teaching in *English as Second Language* program at H.C.C. and fostering exploratory talks between Senegal's Ministry of Energy and Houston companies.

The Consulate General of Senegal has been functioning as a fully endowed Consular office since June of 2005. Characteristic of the strong relationship that exists between Senegal and Houston, Houston has the honor of being the location for one of Senegal's only two full consular representations within the United States. Consul General Sall describes as her most important responsibility the services she can provide Senegalese nationals within Houston and throughout the South, but it is clear that her passion is business development and the promotion of cross-cultural understanding.

Senegal's economy has grown at a steady rate since 1993 and is attracting increasing amounts of investment. "One of the most promising sectors for future developments between Houston and Senegal is in the area of energy," says the Consul General. Houston, as the "Energy Capital of the World," can offer significant benefits to the Senegalese in terms of energy supply and technical know-how, which can allow Senegal to maintain a positive power supply, fueling its economy in the decades to come.



*Map of Senegal*

In terms of trade, Senegal's physical position within Africa and its robust port facilities in Dakar represents a huge potential for commerce and transportation. Consul General Sall points to recent infrastructural developments in the area of Dakar which build upon its industrial platform. Dakar is becoming a logistical hub for all of West Africa, for, as Consul General Sall says, "You cannot come to Africa, without visiting Senegal!"

**– By Matthew Shailer**

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## International Hub: Small Business Administration

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*Manuel R. González,  
district director  
of the U.S. SBA*

The primary goal of the Houston district of the Small Business Administration (SBA) is to assist small business owners with their needs in accessing capital for expansion, acquisition or start up. “Mission accomplished,” says Manuel R. González, district director of the U.S. SBA, whose Houston district office approved 1,024 loans valued at \$220.2 million for the first six months of fiscal year 2006.

In addition, under the SBA’s International Trade Division, the Houston district office approved this year 55 loans valued at \$11.2 million to small businesses that export their goods and services throughout the world. González works closely with the Port of Houston Authority as a member of their Advisory Board to obtain more leads for small business that export from Houston to the world.

“It is important to provide access to capital to small businesses and young entrepreneurs entering the business sector. Banks are the source of these funds and SBA provides the crucial government guarantees to support the small business owners soliciting the bank credits,” says González.

A banking expert, González has spent 32 years in the financial, regulatory and government arenas. After many years as comptroller and examiner, González

joined the SBA as an underwriter in Colorado and later, as a loan specialist in California. He recently received the Henry B. González Latino Leadership Award in Houston for his efforts in working with a variety of groups.

Houston’s SBA also offers an especially innovative product called the Small Business Investment Corporation (SBIC). If a small business venture has a promising product or service to bring to the marketplace, the SBIC will provide capital and take an equity position in the company. An agreement will be structured with the company for an exit strategy so that once the business reaches a level of profitability, the SBIC’s stock will be repurchased by the company.

González is optimistic about Houston’s international future. “We look forward to working with the Mayor’s office on international trade to network further in our efforts to attract more small business owners who wish to export their goods and services to the world,” says González. For more information, visit <http://www.sba.gov/tx/hous/index.html>.

**– By MaryJane Wakefield**

### Did You Know?

The President of the United States sets aside one week of every year to recognize the contributions of small business owners to the U.S. economy. This year, Houstonian Leopoldo (Polo) Becerra, president and CEO of Post Oak Grill, was honored by being named Texas Small Business Person of the Year.

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## The Global Bridge: Indo American Chamber of Commerce

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*Each month the International Newsletter will feature a section “The Global Bridge” introducing the chambers of commerce in Houston dedicated to promoting Houston’s international image.*

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Established in 1999, Indo American Chamber of Commerce of Greater Houston (IACCGH) is a non-profit organization comprising leading Indian and American businesses leaders and academicians interested in promoting trade between India and the United States.

The basic premise behind the IACCGH mission is to develop closer commercial ties between the two countries that can help change lives of millions for the better. With the rapid growth in the Indian economy, there is a tremendous need for investment in a broad range of areas like oil and gas, power generation, aviation, telecommunications, construction and manufacturing, just to name a few. A networking hub, IACCGH connects 100,000 Indo American communities with 2,000 businesses.



*Somesh Singh,  
president of  
IACCGH*

“We will continue to expand our services to small and medium businesses and budding entrepreneurs by providing mentoring and networking opportunities,” says Somesh Singh, president of IACCGH. “We will build on our work of bringing together collaboration between leading healthcare institutions in India and the U.S. and expand that model to higher educational institutions.”

India is fast becoming one of the largest consumers of energy. From oil and gas to nuclear energy, Houston has a lot to offer India. IACCGH will play a significant part in helping partnerships developed in these areas. “We will redouble our efforts in bringing together leaders from both countries to create opportunities for long term strategic discussions,” says

Somesh Singh. The formation of the Energy Advisory Group and the work the Chamber is doing with the Rice University and the Baker Institute are steps in this direction.

The Greater Houston Partnership and the City of Houston are planning a trade mission to India from June 10-17. “We hope to have meaningful meetings with the Ministry of Industries and Commerce in Delhi, Chief Minister/Industries Ministry of the State of Maharashtra in Mumbai and the members and leaders of several apex Chambers of Commerce in India including the Confederation of Indian Industries (CII) and the Indo American Chambers of Commerce, India (IACC). Meetings will also be arranged with the U.S. Commercial Section in Delhi and Mumbai,” says IACCGH Executive Director Jagdip Ahluwalia.

One of the biggest events for the Chamber is its annual Gala in August. This year the Chamber will celebrate its seventh year of service. The theme of Gala 2007 is *Energy*. President Bush's recent visit to India and the new cooperation initiatives around energy sector announced during his visit are a testament to the growing partnership between the two countries. For more information, visit [www.iaccgh.com](http://www.iaccgh.com).

### *Special Thanks*

*Article submitted by the Indo  
American Chamber of Commerce of  
Greater Houston.*



## International Frontier – Martha Wyrsh

*Every month we focus on a Houstonian who has made an indelible mark on our city through outstanding contributions and services to the growth of Houston as an international city.*



*Martha Wyrsh*

Martha Wyrsh is president of Duke Energy Gas Transmission (DEGT), a North American leader in developing natural gas energy infrastructure which

connects major supply sources to growing markets. “Duke Energy is an integrated energy company and my role is to oversee its gas transmission business which is focused primarily on our natural gas pipeline, storage, gathering and processing and distribution interests,” says Wyrsh.

Based in Houston, DEGT’s assets and operations include more than 18,500 miles of transmission pipeline and 250 billion cubic feet of storage capacity in Canada and the United States, along with significant gathering, processing, distribution and natural gas liquids operations that are among the largest in Canada.

“Business borders and national borders sometimes align and sometimes conflict,” Wyrsh observes. “Our Canadian businesses use different regulatory, governmental and business frameworks compared to those used in our U.S. operations. Adapting to these varying business approaches has made us stronger, more agile and better equipped to meet customer needs and deliver shareholder value.”

A Wyoming native, Wyrsh earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in literature from the University of Wyoming. While there, she served on the University’s student senate, and was elected as president of an office previously held by only one other female. Wyrsh went on to earn a juris doctor degree from George Washington University, and completed the Harvard Business School Advanced Management Program.

Since 1999, Wyrsh has served in a variety of executive positions at Duke Energy, including executive vice president, general counsel and secretary. Prior to joining Duke Energy, she was senior vice president, general counsel and secretary of KN Energy, Inc. (now part of Kinder Morgan, Inc.). From 1986 to 1991, she was an associate of the law firm, Davis, Graham & Stubbs.

Wyrsh is currently chair of DEGT’s three Canadian Boards – Westcoast Energy, Union Gas and Duke Energy Income Fund. She is also a member of the boards of directors of the Greater Houston Partnership, the United Way of the Texas Gulf Coast, and the Interstate Natural Gas Association.

Wyrsh enjoys spending time with her husband and their two children, is involved in school, sports and family recreational activities including skiing, hiking and bicycle riding.

– By MaryJane Wakefield

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★★★★★  
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**Next Submission  
Deadline:  
May 20, 2006**

## May – 2006 Event Calendar

Date	Time	Event	Venue/Contact	
May 1-4	--	2006 Offshore Technology Conference	Venue:	Reliant Center
			Contact:	713-247-3595
May 1-4	--	City of Houston: Saudi Arabia delegation led by Nancy Charles-Parker	Venue:	The Westin Galleria Hotel
			Contact:	202-393-0027
May 1	6:00pm-8:00pm	The Bilateral US-Arab Chamber of Commerce: 2006 Offshore Technology Conference Reception	Venue:	Omni Houston Hotel
			Contact:	713-880-8168
May 2	3:30pm	Houston Hispanic Chamber of Commerce: Retirement Solutions for Your Business	Venue:	Maggiano's Little Italy
			Contact:	713-644-7070
May 2	6:00pm-8:00pm	World Energy Cities Partnership: 2006 Networking Reception	Venue:	Hilton Houston Post Oak Hotel
			Contact:	713-844-3661
May 2	7:00pm	Italian Cultural and Community Center: Splendor of Sicily Lecture Series, Loyalty, Courage, and Wisdom – Tradition and Social Struggle Represented in the Sicilian Puppet Theater	Venue:	Italian Cultural and Community Center
			Contact:	713-524-4222
May 3	--	City of Houston Mayor's Office: Toshiba Delegation	Venue:	--
			Contact:	MOIAD
May 3	11:30am	Greater Houston Partnership: Comerica Business Forum	Venue:	Hilton Americas Hotel
			Contact:	217-969-6613
May 3	6:00pm	Houston World Affairs Council: More Than Humanitarianism, A Strategic U.S. Approach Toward Africa	Venue:	The Junior League
			Contact:	713-522-7811
May 3	6:00pm	The U.S.-Saudi Arabian Business Council: Reception Welcoming Saudi Arabian Delegation of Oil, Gas, and Petrochemical Companies	Venue:	The Westin Galleria Hotel
			Contact:	202-638-1212
May 3	7:00pm	Houston Hispanic Chamber of Commerce: 30 <sup>th</sup> Annual Education Achievement Award	Venue:	The Houston Club
			Contact:	713-644-7070
May 4	11:30am	Houston World Affairs Council: The Mexican Elections and Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador	Venue:	Hyatt Regency Hotel
			Contact:	713-522-7811
May 4	4:00pm-5:30pm	The Houston Independent School District: Asian/Pacific American Heritage Month Kick-off Reception	Venue:	4400 W. 18 <sup>th</sup> Street
			Contact:	N.A.
May 5	7:00pm	Developments in Literacy: Annual Gala	Venue:	Chateau Crystal
			Contact:	281-655-5349

<b>May 6</b>	<b>8:00am-noon</b>	<b>Blueprint Houston: Citizens' Congress II, Make Your Voice Heard</b>	Venue:	George R. Brown Convention Center
			Contact:	www.blueprintheouston.org
<b>May 6</b>	<b>8:30am-4:30pm</b>	<b>6<sup>th</sup> Annual Houston Dragon Boat Festival</b>	Venue:	Buffalo Bayou at Allen's Landing in Downtown
			Contact:	281-808-6855
<b>May 6</b>	<b>11:30am-1:30pm</b>	<b>Indo-American Chamber of Commerce of Greater Houston: U.S., India, China, Evolving Dynamics in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century</b>	Venue:	The Westin Galleria Hotel
			Contact:	713-624-7131
<b>May 6</b>	<b>6:00pm-10:00pm</b>	<b>Indian Doctors Association of Houston: Spring Gala</b>	Venue:	Medical Center Marriott Hotel
			Contact:	rmangal@houston.rr.com
<b>May 6</b>	<b>7:00pm</b>	<b>Pratham: Pratham USA 2006 Gala</b>	Venue:	The Westin Galleria Hotel
			Contact:	713-774-9599
<b>May 7</b>	<b>11:00am</b>	<b>Chinese Community Center: 2006 Golf Classic</b>	Venue:	Blackhorse Golf Club
			Contact:	713-271-6100
<b>May 8</b>	<b>11:30am</b>	<b>Houston World Affairs Council: Emerging Leaders From Developing Democracies</b>	Venue:	The Westin Galleria Hotel
			Contact:	713-522-7811
<b>May 9</b>	<b>6:30pm</b>	<b>Inprint, Inc. and Asia Society Texas: Reception and Reading featuring Rakistani novelist Bapsi Sidhwa</b>	Venue:	River Oaks Compass Bank
			Contact:	713-521-2026
<b>May 9</b>	<b>6:00pm</b>	<b>Houston World Affairs Council: On the Ground in Iran, What the Iranian People Want</b>	Venue:	The Westin Oaks Hotel
			Contact:	713-522-7811
<b>May 10</b>	<b>Noon</b>	<b>Greater Houston Partnership: Dr. Stephen L. Klineberg Luncheon</b>	Venue:	Four Seasons Hotel
			Contact:	713-844-0294
<b>May 10</b>	<b>6:00pm</b>	<b>American Leadership Forum: Joseph Jaworski Leadership Award Dinner &amp; 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary</b>	Venue:	InterContinental Hotel
			Contact:	713-807-1253
<b>May 11</b>	<b>--</b>	<b>City of Houston Mayor's Office: Nuevo Leon delegation led by Romeo Flores-Caballero</b>	Venue:	--
			Contact:	MOIAD
<b>May 11</b>	<b>--</b>	<b>City of Houston Mayor's Office: Shanghai delegation</b>	Venue:	--
			Contact:	MOIAD
<b>May 11</b>	<b>8:30am</b>	<b>Houston Hispanic Chamber of Commerce: Professional Service Seminar</b>	Venue:	TBD
			Contact:	713-644-7070
<b>May 12</b>	<b>11:30am</b>	<b>Greater Houston Partnership: Distinguished Speaker Series</b>	Venue:	Federal Reserve Bank
			Contact:	713-844-3635
<b>May 12</b>	<b>11:30am</b>	<b>Houston World Affairs Council: A Town Hall Meeting on Immigration Reform, A Nation at the Crossroads</b>	Venue:	The Hyatt Regency Hotel
			Contact:	713-522-7811

<b>May 12</b>	<b>6:00pm</b>	<b>City of Houston Mayor's Office MIADC: Official Kick-Off Reception</b>	Venue: Contact:	City Hall Rotunda MOIAD
<b>May 13-14</b>	<b>Noon</b>	<b>Houston Highland Games Association: Houston Scottish Highland Games and Celtic Festival</b>	Venue: Contact:	Farm and Ranch Club Melvyn.douglass@usa.net
<b>May 14</b>	<b>--</b>	<b>City of Houston Mayor's Office: Qingdao delegation</b>	Venue: Contact:	-- MOIAD
<b>May 15</b>	<b>--</b>	<b>City of Houston Mayor's Office: Yancheng delegation</b>	Venue: Contact:	-- MOIAD
<b>May 15</b>	<b>--</b>	<b>City of Houston: Russian Delegation led by Yavuz Ahmadov</b>	Venue: Contact:	-- MOIAD
<b>May 15-17</b>	<b>--</b>	<b>U.S. Department of Commerce: China Risk, Reward &amp; How to Win</b>	Venue: Contact:	Houston Doubletree Hilton Inn www.chinabizconference.com
<b>May 15</b>	<b>11:30am-1:30pm</b>	<b>Center for Houston Future: 2006 Annual Luncheon</b>	Venue: Contact:	Four Seasons Hotel khilliard@centerforhoustonfuture.org
<b>May 15</b>	<b>5:30pm</b>	<b>Greater Houston Partnership: B2B/Member2Member Networking Party</b>	Venue: Contact:	Minute Maid Park 713-844-3600
<b>May 15</b>	<b>6:00pm</b>	<b>Houston World Affairs Council: A Sitting Target, America's Security Nightmare</b>	Venue: Contact:	The Westin Oaks Hotel 713-522-7811
<b>May 16</b>	<b>7:00pm</b>	<b>Italian Cultural and Community Center: The Italian Dine Around</b>	Venue: Contact:	Simposio 713-777-8151
<b>May 17-18</b>	<b>--</b>	<b>ITEC Conference and Exhibition</b>	Venue: Contact:	Reliant Center www.goITEC.com
<b>May 17</b>	<b>7:30am</b>	<b>Houston Hispanic Chamber of Commerce: Networking Breakfast &amp; Mini-Trade Fair</b>	Venue: Contact:	Monarch 24th Floor (Galleria) 713-644-7070
<b>May 18</b>	<b>TBD</b>	<b>U.S. Export Assistance Center: U.S. Ambassador to Spain to Speak at Export Excellence Awards</b>	Venue: Contact:	TBD 281-449-9423
<b>May 19</b>	<b>6:00pm</b>	<b>The Asian/Pacific American Heritage Association: The 14<sup>th</sup> Anniversary APAHA Gala</b>	Venue: Contact:	Hilton Americas Hotel 832-428-5909
<b>May 20-21</b>	<b>--</b>	<b>Houston Black Expo</b>	Venue: Contact:	George R. Brown Convention Center 832-200-0540
<b>May 21</b>	<b>6:30pm</b>	<b>VN TeamWork Gala 2006</b>	Venue: Contact:	Ocean Palace 281-495-8936
<b>May 22</b>	<b>--</b>	<b>City of Houston: Argentina delegation led by Governor of Rio Negro, Argentina</b>	Venue: Contact:	-- MOIAD



May 22	11:30am	Houston World Affairs Council: America and Spain, Partners in Security, Development and Diplomacy	Venue:	The Westin Oaks Hotel
			Contact:	713-522-7811
May 23-25	--	International Air Cargo Conference & Exhibit: 15 <sup>th</sup> Annual IACC 2006	Venue:	George R. Brown Convention Center
			Contact:	321-783-0088
May 23	6:30pm	Italian Cultural and Community Center: Cooking Class – Papa LaRosa presents Pizza Tossing and Pizza Making	Venue:	Italian Cultural and Community Center
			Contact:	713-524-4222
May 24	7:15pm	Italian Cultural and Community Center: Italian Film Series – La Finestra di Fronte	Venue:	Italian Cultural and Community Center
			Contact:	713-524-4222
May 25	7:30am-6:15pm	Houston Technology Center: 21 <sup>st</sup> Century Governance for Early Stage Companies Conference	Venue:	Houstonian Hotel
			Contact:	713-658-1750
May 25	8:30am	21 <sup>st</sup> Century Governance for Early Stage Companies Conference	Venue:	The Houstonian Hotel
			Contact:	713-844-3678
May 25	Noon-1:00pm	Houston Protocol Alliance: Learn at Lunch – Hungary	Venue:	City Hall 1 <sup>st</sup> Floor
			Contact:	713-227-3395



*We have one simple goal: to promote Houston as a renowned international city.*

The contents are intended for general information purposes only.